

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 PRS-01 H-02
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NSAE-00 /087 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:REUNDELAND:RGH

APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN

S/PRS - MR. CARTER (INFO)

H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)

SSM - MR. MC ANDREW

NEA - MR. COLLUMS

NEA/ARN - MR. REUTHER

-----211028Z 121118 /20

R 210115Z MAY 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION SINAI

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

USMISSION GENEVA

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AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USCINCEUR

UNCLAS STATE 117306

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - MAY 20

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR
MAY 20, 1977:

Q. AT THE WHITE HOUSE THIS MORNING, MARILYN BERGER ASKED:
WHAT IS THE U.S. POLICY WITH REGARD TO SETTLEMENTS IN THE
WEST BANK?

AND MR. POWELL'S RESPONSE WAS THAT IT HASN'T CHANGED A BIT.

AND WHEN ASKED HE SAID: WELL, I DON'T RECALL WHAT IT WAS.

HE SAID, WELL, I JUST WILL SAY THAT IT HASN'T CHANGED.

SUBSEQUENTLY, AN AID SAID THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT WILL
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EXPLAIN THAT.

AND SO THEREFORE, I AM HERE; AND THAT IS THE QUESTION.

A. WELL, I TALKED TO JODY ABOUT THAT.

Q. YOU DID?

A. NO ASPECT OF THE UNITED STATES POLICY IN THE MIDDLE
EAST HAS CHANGED, AND I AM NOT GOING TO MAKE ANY
STATEMENTS, OR RESTATEMENTS, OR COMMENTS, OR INTERPRE-
TATIONS WHICH ARE BOUND TO RELATE TO THE SITUATION IN
ISRAEL AFTER THE ELECTION. SO --

Q. WELL, COULD I FOLLOW THAT UP BY SIMPLY ASKING: DOES
THIS MEAN THAT THIS POLICY WITH REGARD TO SETTLEMENTS IN
THE WEST BANK HAS SUDDENLY BECOME AN UNMENTIONABLE PART?
I MEAN, IF IT HASN'T CHANGED, COULD YOU EXPLAIN TO
MARILYN, AND TO ME, AND TO OTHERS THAT MIGHT BE IN THE

DARK; WHAT IS THE U.S. POLICY?

I MEAN, THIS INDICATES THAT IT'S -- AS I SAY -- AN
UNMENTIONABLE POLICY. SURELY THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS
AN "UNMENTIONABLE" POLICY --

A. YES, I THINK THE RECORD -- YOU HAVE GOT THE RECORD,
YOU CAN GO BACK TO THE RECORD --

Q. WHERE IS THE RECORD?

A. OUR BRIEFINGS -- STATEMENTS IN THE UNITED NATIONS,
ETC.

I DO NOT WANT TO MAKE A RESTATEMENT HERE. I WILL JUST
REFER YOU TO THE RECORD. OUR POLICY, I WOULD STRESS
AGAIN, IS UNCHANGED. THEREFORE, IT IS ABSOLUTELY
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REDUNDANT FOR ME TO MAKE A RESTATEMENT OF IT HERE: BUT
I WOULD REFER YOU TO THE RECORD. OUR POLICY REMAINS
UNCHANGED.

Q. ONE OTHER ASPECT -- WITHOUT BEING --

IS THERE ANY OTHER U.S. POLICY THAT HAS DEFINITELY NOT
CHANGED, THAT NO ONE IN THE WHITE HOUSE OR THE STATE
DEPARTMENT WILL SPEAK ABOUT -- THAT YOU CAN THINK OF
RIGHT OFFHAND?

A. I CAN'T OFFHAND.

Q. O.K.

Q. FRED, YOU SAID YOU ARE NOT GOING TO MAKE ANY
STATEMENTS WHATEVER ON THE MIDDLE EAST, AND YOU SAY THAT
NO ASPECT OF THE MIDDLE EAST POLICY HAS CHANGED. WELL,

IS IT FAIR TO ASSUME THAT THERE IS DISCUSSION TAKING PLACE
WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT AS TO A POSSIBLE CHANGE IN U.S.
POLICY?

A. I WOULDN'T WANT TO SPECULATE ON DISCUSSIONS OR
CHANGES. I WILL JUST HAVE TO STICK WITH WHAT I HAVE
SAID ON THAT, I'M SORRY.

Q. AS A FOLLOW-UP TO THAT, IS IT POSSIBLE THAT THIS
RATHER UNIQUE REFUSAL TO ENUNCIATE WHAT U.S. POLICY IS
MAY TRIGGER MORE ATTENTION TO THIS UNMENTIONABLE POLICY,
FRED, THAT THE UNITED STATES IS UNDULY ALARMED ABOUT

MR. BEGIN'S VICTORY, AND SO FORTH?

A. NO, I WOULDN'T EXPECT THAT TO BE THE CASE.

Q. THEN IF THAT WON'T BE THE CASE, THEN YOU JUST THINK
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IT IS BETTER POLICY NOT TO MENTION IT.

A. I THINK IT IS BETTER THAT WE DON'T COMMENT.

Q. I DON'T WANT A COMMENT, I JUST WANT TO KNOW WHAT THE
POLICY IS. I WASN'T ASKING FOR EVEN THE SLIGHTEST
COMMENT. I WOULD JUST LIKE TO KNOW, WHAT IS THE POLICY?

A. WELL, AS I SAID, IT IS ON THE RECORD. THERE IS NO
CHANGE FROM IT. AND I AM NOT GOING TO GET INTO RESTAT-
ING IT HERE.

CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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TAGS: PFOR, US, XF
To: ABU DHABI ALGIERS MULTIPLE
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